

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 4, 6-41 and 68-76 are pending herein. Claims 14-41 are allowed. Claims 10 and 74-76 have been amended as supported by Fig. 1 of the present application, for example.

1. Claims 3, 4, 6-13 and 68-76 were rejected under §103(a) over Brunnee in view Arai and combined with Ogawa. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

As currently amended, independent claims 10 and 74-76 recite, among other things, a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device comprising a pair of mutually opposing thin plate sections made of metal, a fixation section for supporting the thin plate sections, and a movable section disposed at an opposite end of the thin plate sections from the fixation section. At least one of the movable section and the fixation section includes a slot defined only by planar opposing surfaces.

Brunnee discloses, in Figs. 3 and 4, an electrically actuated aperture used to adjust slit widths in spectrometers. The opposing surfaces, defined by the end parts 31, 32 and portions of slit jaws 12, 13, are clearly and purposefully not planar. The knife-edged portions located on the opposing portions of the end parts 31, 32 are by design as thin as possible because, as is well known in the art, light waves fan out causing a significant diffraction angle behind a slit aperture. Accordingly, the knife-edge allows the assembly to function as a shutter or slit aperture without further affecting the diffraction of the light behind the knife-edge. Therefore, Brunnee fails to disclose the claimed feature that at least one of the movable section and the fixation section includes a slot defined by planar opposing surfaces, as recited in claims 10 and 74-76.

Because the PTO is relying on Arai only for disclosure of the placement of the piezoelectric thin films and Ogawa for disclosure of the use of a stack of piezo films, Applicants respectfully submit that any combination of Brunnee, Arai and Ogawa would have failed to disclose or suggest a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device wherein

at least one of the movable section and the fixation section includes a slot defined only by planar opposing surfaces.

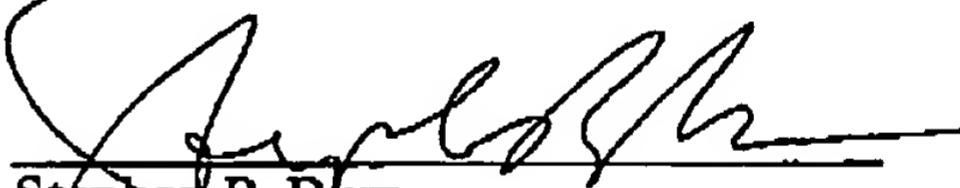
Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments submitted above distinguish claims 10 and 74-76 from Brunnee. Since Arai and Ogawa do not overcome the deficiencies of Brunnee, and since claims 3, 4, 6-9, 11-13 and 68-73 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 10, those claims are also believed to be allowable over the applied art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

**The Examiner is requested to confirm receipt and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed November 1, 2004 and July 19, 2005.**

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,



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